
**JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY**

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2007

1901-S Barber Quarter with a B Die



Discovered with a metal detector

See page 18

Photo courtesy of Dave Hurt



1998: Sold by DLRC for \$825,000.



2005: Sold by DLRC for \$1,332,000.



2007: Sold by DLRC for \$1,900,000.

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JOURNAL OF THE
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CONTENTS

Page 4.....BCCS President's Message
Page 5.....BCCS Editor's Message
Page 6....."Estimating the Scarcity of Circulated Barber Half Dollars" by Rich Dula
Page 10...."An In-depth Look at Barbers" by Gene B. Edwards
Page 14....2008 Barber Census & Rarity Survey: Barber Dimes
Page 16....Barber Bits
Page 20...."1903-S Barber Dime OK with No. 4 Ranking" by Paul M. Green
Page 22....Barber Coin Collectors' Society Bylaws



BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the winter issue of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society *Journal*.

I am writing this on the weekend following Thanksgiving. I expect the next month may provide fewer numismatic moments than the demands of Christmas shopping and other holiday planning. However, by very early January 2008, the New Year will bring in the FUN Show followed by a continuum of other shows and auctions. This hiatus during December can provide some opportunities for planning and strategy.

Some of the following thoughts and ideas are those I've either started this weekend or hope to begin over the next few weeks. Do you have a solid wantlist and accurate inventory of the coins you currently own? Does your wantlist contain references to current pricing for coins you want? If you use a single pricing source and neglect other sources such as dealer price lists and major auction prices realized, you may not have a current price value. Have you looked at the coins you have acquired either recently or long ago? Should you evaluate them for varieties not recognized by you or the seller when obtained? Should you carefully look at certain coins and determine whether they are not the quality you currently seek to own? A secondary wantlist of such dates along with the cost of what you wish to replace can be a useful tool at a show or when reviewing a auction catalog. These ideas are a starting point. If you have others, provide them to Eileen for publication.

It is better than interesting to view the coin market these days. Most everything is doing well and metals (along with black gold or oil) are at record price levels. This year two Barber 1894-S dimes were sold at record prices along with similar outcomes for rarities in other series. If prices in your series are seemingly too high, consider watching rather than buying. If you have collected and finished a series which holds little interest now, selling may be a strategy to raise funds for numismatic use along with sharing proceeds with the family. Our present crises with the US dollar, home financing and the economy won't last forever nor will the robust coin market continue its upward climb.

May you and your family and friends enjoy the holiday season and share this joy with others who have less than we do.

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan



BCCS EDITOR'S MESSAGE

With this issue, we wrap up the Volume 18 issues of the *Journal*. Tucked inside you will find a flyer announcing the entries in our annual Literary Contest. Please take a few minutes to look over the articles listed (some can be found in this issue) and vote for the ones you enjoyed the most. Remember, to have your vote count, please send in your ballot by March 1st. Winners will be announced in the Vol. 19, No. 1 *Journal*.

Also enclosed is the 2008 BCCS Census and Rarity Survey. This, our third census/survey, focuses on Barber Dimes. John and Phil have done their best to make it as convenient as possible for you to participate in it. Please take advantage of this opportunity to gather data and information that will benefit everyone by reporting the number of Barber dimes in each date and grade that you have in your collection.

Those of you who have not yet renewed your BCCS membership for the upcoming 2008 year will find a membership renewal form enclosed.

If you will be at the 2008 FUN Show, Bill Cowburn will be giving a talk titled "Barber Quarters - Surprising Variety!" on Thursday, Jan. 10th at 2 p.m. in Room 220C.

Also at the FUN Show, plan to attend the BCCS Meeting hosted by John Frost on Friday, Jan. 11th at 3:00 p.m. in Room 322. Try to stop in at one or both meetings. Both John and Bill will be happy to meet you and you will enjoy lots of talk about Barbers with fellow collectors.

Happy New Year! May it be a joyful, healthy, and prosperous one for each of you.

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of \$50. Second place prize will be \$25 and third place will be a free one year BCCS membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to Eileen at the post office or e-mail address on page 3.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS March 1st

Estimating the Scarcity of Circulated Barber Half Dollars

by **Rich Dula**

As I did in the past with Barber Quarters and Dimes, I surveyed Barber Halves being offered on eBay in circulated grades of AG through AU. I believe this gives us a good opportunity to view what is being offered for sale nationwide by fellow collectors and dealers.

As I did in the past, coins with no pictures/scans or coins where the grade could not be determined because of poor pictures or scans were not included in this survey. I viewed each and every lot and graded them according to photograde, as many grades listed (even in some slabbed coins) were inaccurate to say the least. As I did with the Barber Dimes, I viewed coins in groups (by date and mintmark) over a period of weeks as there were simply too many to be viewed in one day.

Over the last few years the number of Barber coins listed on eBay has been steadily increasing. I checked the totals as I was finishing this article in July. There were 1028 Barber Dime lots, 756 Barber Quarter lots, and 1358 Barber Half lots listed. Some of these lots contained multiple coins, so there are even more individual coins than the number of lots listed. Interestingly, the number of coins listed in the grades of Fine through AU do not seem to be showing much of an increase, if any.

<u>Date</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>Total</u>
1892-P	3	19	0	2	2	0	2	28
1892-O	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
1892-S	3	7	0	0	1	0	0	11
1893-P	1	6	1	2	0	0	0	10
1893-O	4	3	2	1	0	1	2	13
1893-S	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	7
1894-P	3	3	2	1	0	1	1	11
1894-O	1	5	3	1	1	0	0	11
1894-S	5	13	3	0	0	1	1	23
1895-P	3	10	4	0	0	0	0	17
1895-O	1	8	7	0	0	1	0	17
1895-S	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	9
1896-P	1	5	3	0	0	0	0	9

<u>Date</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>Total</u>
1896-O	8	4	3	0	1	0	0	16
1896-S	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	8
1897-P	2	8	7	0	2	0	0	19
1897-O	6	6	2	0	0	0	0	14
1897-S	3	2	2	1	0	0	1	9
1898-P	0	12	8	0	0	0	0	20
1898-O	5	8	4	0	0	0	0	17
1898-S	2	3	4	2	0	0	0	11
1899-P	1	16	8	3	0	1	0	29
1899-O	5	8	3	0	1	1	0	18
1899-S	0	5	0	0	0	1	2	8
1900-P	4	14	4	1	0	0	1	24
1900-O	4	9	3	0	1	0	1	18
1900-S	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	6
1901-P	5	14	8	1	1	1	2	32
1901-O	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	8
1901-S	5	7	1	0	0	1	0	14
1902-P	7	19	2	1	2	3	0	34
1902-O	1	9	2	4	0	0	0	16
1902-S	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	8
1903-P	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	7
1903-O	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	9
1903-S	5	5	1	1	0	0	0	12
1904-P	8	12	2	3	0	1	0	26
1904-O	3	11	3	0	0	0	0	17
1904-S	3	8	2	0	0	1	0	14
1905-P	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	9
1905-O	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	5
1905-S	5	11	4	0	0	0	0	20
1906-P	1	13	9	1	2	1	0	27
1906-D	2	23	6	0	0	0	0	31
1906-O	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	11
1906-S	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	9
1907-P	1	14	6	1	0	0	0	22
1907-D	4	18	9	2	2	0	0	35
1907-O	1	15	3	6	2	0	0	27
1907-S	2	7	2	0	0	0	0	11
1907-S/S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1908-P	2	9	4	2	1	0	0	18
1908-D	9	18	6	1	2	1	0	37
1908-O	5	28	6	0	2	0	1	42
1908-S	3	9	7	0	0	2	1	22

<u>Date</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>VF</u>	<u>XF</u>	<u>AU</u>	<u>Total</u>
1909-P	5	18	10	8	0	0	0	41
1909-O	1	6	3	4	0	0	0	14
1909-S	2	5	9	6	0	0	0	22
1910-P	0	5	4	1	0	0	1	11
1910-S	2	8	5	3	0	0	0	18
1911-P	0	9	4	0	2	1	0	16
1911-D	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	6
1911-S	0	7	7	2	1	0	0	17
1912-P	2	11	13	2	0	1	1	30
1912-D	1	14	14	1	2	1	2	35
1912-S	0	6	18	1	1	0	0	26
1913-P	0	10	15	1	0	0	0	26
1913-D	2	5	2	1	1	0	0	11
1913-S	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	6
1914-P	0	4	7	1	0	0	0	12
1914-S	0	2	9	1	0	0	0	12
1915-P	0	6	10	1	2	0	0	19
1915-D	0	8	9	1	1	2	0	21
1915-S	0	11	16	5	2	0	1	35
<u>Total</u>	176	624	328	78	38	24	20	1288
<u>% Total</u>	13.7	48.45	25.5	6.06	2.95	1.86	1.6	100%

General Observations

Coins with 0-5 appearances: 1892-O (4), 1905-O (5), and 1907-S/S (0)

Coins with 6-10 appearances: 1893-S (7), 1895-S (9), 1896-P (9), 1897-S (9), 1899-S (8), 1900-S (6), 1901-O (8), 1902-S (8), 1903-P (7), 1903-O (9), 1905-P (9), 1906-S (9), 1911-D (6), and 1913-S (6)

Ten coins with the most appearances: 1908-O (42), 1909-P (41), 1908-D (37), 1907-D (35), 1912-D (35), 1915-S (35), 1902-P (34), 1901-P (32), 1906-D (31) and 1912-P (30)

Coins in grades AG and Good totaled 800 or 62.11% of the 1288 total coins surveyed.

From 1909-1915, only 15 coins were observed in AG condition.

There were 50 dates/mintmarks with 0-20 appearances, representing 67.6% of the

series.

The 10 dates/mintmarks with the most appearances totaled 352 or 27.33% of the 1288 observed.

A relatively high percentage of Barber Halves were offered in the grade of VG. I believe the main reason is the way they are graded: either 3 full letters or 2 full and 2 partial letters in the word LIBERTY qualify a coin for the VG grade. In reality, many of the coins do not have VG detail on the rest of the coin, obverse or reverse. I believe these coins are only Good+ at best, but they are listed and sold on eBay and elsewhere as VG. Perhaps the size of the half dollar or stronger strikes of the word LIBERTY contributed to this situation. At any rate, I would search for coins that have VG details on the entire coin, not just looking at the word LIBERTY. I think that this is especially important on the higher priced coins in the series. In fact, on the higher priced coins, I think there should be separate grades listed for both obverse and reverse. With the continuing increased demand for quality, more and more collectors will pay higher prices for well-struck coins. So why not try to get this type of coin now (hopefully without paying extra); it will only pay you dividends in the future.

I was quite surprised at some of the dates with only 6-10 appearances: 1903-P, 1905-P, 1906-S, 1911-D, and 1913-S. Some of these dates have rather large mintages for the series and I would have expected to see more offered for sale. As I recall, the 1903-P in VG or better was a tough date to find when I was completing my set. Consulting my copy of Dave Lawrence's *A Complete Guide to Barber Half Dollars*, Dave also states that the 1903-P was much tougher to find than its mintage would indicate. He further speculates that some of this mintage may have been melted at the Mint.

Also surprising were the rather high numbers of the pricey 1913-P, 1914-P, and 1915-P Halves offered for sale during this survey. The 1913-P had 26 appearances, the 1914-P had 12, and the 1915-P had 19. Most of these were in the grade of VG. Perhaps this was just a random event or maybe they are not as scarce as their valuation suggests.

As with the other Barber silver series, a handful of dates comprise a large percentage of the coins offered for sale. When collecting by type, there is not much of a problem in acquiring what you need for your collection. Only when you collect these coins by date and mintmark does one get a true picture of how scarce and underrated some of these coins really are.

A series of articles covering each denomination by the late Gene B. Edwards first appeared in the Coin Dealer Newsletter (CDN) in the late 1970s. Ron Downing, then publisher of CDN, gave BCCS permission to reprint Col. Edwards's thoughts on Barber coinage which we did in the 1989 Vol. 1, No. 3 Journal. The section on Barber Quarters was reprinted in the 2003 Vol. 14 No. 4 Journal. The sections on Barber dimes and halves is printed below for our newer members.

An In-Depth Look at Barbers

by **Gene B. Edwards**

Barber Dimes

The Design: As with the quarter and half dollar of the same design, the obverse shows Ms. Liberty's head with crowned wreath facing right and surrounded by relief fields - thereby placing the device higher than its protective surfaces. This design leaves the device very vulnerable to all forms of distraction such as stacking marks, slide marks and hairlines - all of which are the nemesis of the collector who is seeking the near-perfect Barber dime. The reverse is a carryover of the reverse of Christian Gobrecht's Seated Liberty Dime - a wreath of grain tied with ribbon and bow at the base. Of the three series, the dimes have long been the most popularly collected and most avidly sought.

Strike: For the most part, all dates and mint marks of this series were well struck and, with the notable exception of the 1907-O (where Ms. Liberty's brow and hair are virtually nonexistent on most specimens that I have seen), strong fully-struck detail is the rule rather than the exception. I would further venture that, other than the rarities, one could acquire any date in this group in fully-struck condition. You need not settle for a below average striking as long as your time and money hold out.

Surfaces: Here we have a completely different story. As is true of all Barber denominations, the obverse device - by simple virtue of the design - is prey to the most insidious marks, hairlines and scratches. Marks made from stacking and small abrasions caused in manufacture and handling usually account for any impairment to the surface of gem coins. Mishandling and improper storage by collectors, however, is the prime source of impairment to coins and one must constantly guard against honest over-grading because one cannot see the minor faint hairlines which may be present on the obverse device. Personally,

I prefer original toned coins over brilliant pieces, but either is simply a matter of taste. The surface texture of this series runs the complete gamut from full frosty cameo against frosty fields - through satin and semi-proof like - to deep mirror proof-like fields with cameo devices. Make no mistake about it - this little coin is one of the most beautiful and most popular ever minted and when a particular date is found in the ultimate, near perfect condition, it is most certainly a proud possession to its new owner! To repeat, unlike the quarter and half dollar, most dates and mint marks in the Barber dime series can be found in near perfect condition. One must have a great deal of time, money and patience, but it can be done - perhaps that is one of the reasons for the popularity of the series.

The choice to gem uncirculated Barber dime will be virtually mark-free, it will be fully struck - and whether brilliant or toned - it will exhibit full blazing luster for the date and mint mark and the type of surface texture the individual coin possesses. Normally, if original, the coin will give off an overall cameo appearance whether frosty, satin or proof-like. That is to say, the devices will be distinctly different in surface luster and texture from the surrounding fields. This creates a rather stunning and a most pleasing appearance.

Barber Half Dollars

Overview: Barber half dollars are probably the most undervalued and difficult of the twentieth century series to assemble by date and mint mark in fully struck gem mint state!

Four years of compilation, charting, research and trending of auction sales, bourse floors and major private treaties of the various dates in this long overlooked and undervalued series has been a challenge and source of many frustrations, all leading to the above inescapable conclusion. It most certainly has been a task with rewards equal to the frustrations!

Aside from the normal problems inherent in Mr. Barber's design, the size and mint misuse of it exposed this series to multiple inadequacies as well as a myriad of mishandling conditions.

It would seem that, as a series, every possible mishap befell the Barber half dollar. Finding the perfect or near perfect specimen of many dates has proven to be all but impossible. Regardless of one's willingness to "pay the price," fully struck superb gems of some dates just do not surface. In some instances, it has been necessary to throw away the normal rules of thumb and apply some very

stringent and carefully researched latitude to the grading of certain dates in order to price them. Grading, of course, is the most vital area; with the grade comes the value we attach to the coin.

I will examine the Mint State grades as applicable to the various dates and mint marks. Therefore, a good deal of explanation will be necessary and a full and complete understanding of the complexities of the design, the mintage procedures and the ultimate results of the striking of this coin are essential.

First, I must caution you that this grade lends itself to much abuse. A choice BU coin is just that - it is not just an UNC. This coin is better than MS-60 and not quite MS-65, due to luster, strike or marks. However, I must stress that a soft strike will not lower the grade on an uncirculated specimen. A truly Mint State price will be that regardless of strike, just as a fully struck coin, with rub or friction, will not miraculously become an UNC! Do not fall into the "strike" trap. Many of the dates in this series are poorly struck, particularly on the reverse at the eagle's claws and the upper right quadrant at shield and wing.

A choice coin will be lustrous, devoid of heavy abrasions and most certainly will not have been subjected to gross mishandling such as improper cleaning. Note, particularly, the high points of Ms. Liberty's cheek for polishing, "slide" marks from passage of album slides, or any attempts at abrasive cleaning.

To highlight this point, I recall a complete collection of the Barber coin series which was acquired a year or so ago. The collection had been kept in old National holders. Certain magnificent original coins were noted in pencil on the boards for "burnishing" or "to be cleaned." The complete series of dimes, quarters and half dollars had been completed in 1955 and the collector was quite partial to fully brilliant coins. As a result, he had attempted to clean an insignificant number of dimes and quarters, but had apparently begun with the halves and had destroyed the obverse surfaces of those coins. Imagine a run of Barber half dollars with Mint State 65-65 reverses and obverses grading about MS-55! Here we have a classic case of mishandling and truly a great loss - a loss of money to the seller and a great misfortune to the hobby since some of the better dates were the best I had ever seen.

Due to the hodge-podge of conditions under which most coins of this series were struck, the indifferent quality of the strike of most mints, and the fact of gross misuse and abuse of the entire series, I must stress surface quality in grading. Strike must therefore become secondary, particularly in the Mint State area.

Surface types of this series offer a great range of finishes, from frost to varying degrees of satin and semi-prooflike through deep prooflike cameos. Some

of the earlier dates, notably from 1894 through 1899, are nearly always seen from semi-prooflike to fully prooflike and, if original, are quite stunning. Many exhibit high “knife edge” rims and cameo devices which has led to the on-going abuse of such descriptions as “Branch Mint Proof,” “Presentation,” or “VIP Striking,” etc.

Strike: This is the great problem area of most dates in this series. From the inception in 1892 throughout the last year of issue, this coin seems to have been struck with an indifferent attitude. I have examined 1892-P specimens which totally contradict the conclusion that all those coins were fully-struck - they were definitely inferior in all aspects. Yet, some New Orleans issues seemed to have enjoyed a great deal more care and many of the San Francisco coins appear to have been afforded a greater degree of quality control by the director, Mr. Daggett, and they are generally appealing coins with excellent strikes.

The areas of greatest concern seem to be the obverse wreath or crown and the brow of Ms. Liberty, as well as the corresponding areas on the reverse at the eagle’s claws and the upper right portion of the shield and wing. Normally, most other areas of the coin appear to be well struck, including most of the stars at the obverse border. I have examined some fully prooflike coins which were not fully struck. There are some dates which I have never seen with full claws and shield, and it is entirely possible that they do not exist in that condition in gem Mint State.

I’m afraid this will explode some of the myths about mintage and its relation to price and rarity, but, unequivocally, the rarest dates of this series in gem fully struck condition (or, I might add, near fully struck condition) are, in my opinion, listed in descending order thusly: 1900-O, 1901-O, 1905-O, 1904-O, 1902-O, 1903-O, 1907-O, 1896-O, 1897-O, 1902-S, 1903-S, with the low mintage 1901-S next in line. The 1913 and 1915 Philadelphia issues would probably fall next and so the list continues. The 1914-P, though the lowest regular mintage of the series, due to hoarding, is around at a price.

An interesting die situation exists with many of the 1906-O and 1908-O halves. Specifically, whether due to improper striking, planchet preparation, or die buckling, many of the coins of these dates exhibit what has come to be known as the “mumps” variety. The variety derives its name from the large lumpy area extending from the lower cheek area down through the jaw and neck of Ms. Liberty, giving the device the appearance of swelling. This die state rarely appears in any other dates and I have never seen it on any but New Orleans issues.

2008 Barber Census & Rarity Survey:

Barber Dimes

Welcome to the BCCS population Census and Rarity Survey for Barber Dimes. Like the previous surveys on Barber Quarters and Halves, the purpose of this project is to revise our earlier estimates of relative rarity of the different dates in the series. The Barber Dimes survey is the third installment of a four-part project – the survey for Liberty Nickels will follow next year. Like before, the study and the associated questionnaire consists of two parts:

- Census Form to allow reporting the number of each date that you hold in each grade
- Rarity Survey to allow you to offer your opinion of relative rarity of numerous dates in various grades.

Deadline for your response is April 30, 2008.

You have three ways to participate in this project:

1. You may answer the questionnaire online by filling out the forms on the BCCS website, at www.BarberCoins.org
2. You may also go to the BCCS website and download an MS Excel spreadsheet which can be filled out and emailed to us at BCCS@BarberCoins.org.
3. You may fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return to the BCCS c/o Eileen Ribar. (You may enclose it with your 2008 Dues payment.)

Please fill out the questionnaire using one of these three methods by **April 30, 2008**. We ask that you only answer the survey once, and please include your BCCS Member Number (found on the mailing label for the *Journal*). If you have submitted one and later wish to make a correction, that is fine – just tell us in the “Notes” section that the response is a correction and include your BCCS number.

A favor: Please please please, if you can fill out the survey forms on-line (web form or Excel as noted in options 1 and 2 above), we would appreciate you doing so, as it will be much easier for us to tally the results. It takes only 2 minutes to tally an online submission, and 5 to 20 minutes to do a paper one, depending on what is reported. However, returning the paper survey is perfectly fine as well, so please do so if it is more convenient.

Instructions for the Census

Please enter the number of coins of each date that you have in each grade in the appropriate boxes (no need to enter zero). Just the number of coins is needed.

We are not worrying about split grades or numerical grading differences (example VG8 versus VG10).

If you have any of the listed die varieties, please specify those in the designated “Varieties” section. The varieties are listed in a separate section. Please tally any of the variety coins under both sections. Hopefully, this will be self explanatory on the form.

Please use accepted grading standards. If you need guidance, you may refer to the BCCS web page on Barber Dime Grading. Be especially diligent in designating true mint state coins, including slabbed coins (we have gotten feedback in the past that numerous sliders in MS holders can skew results). Since this is purely to determine rarity, please grade as conservatively and accurately as possible.

Instructions for the Rarity Survey

Please list your opinions of the relative availability of the different dates in the series in various grades, using the following standards:

R1: Common date and grade

R2: Better date and grade

R3: Tough date - available, but may require some looking

R4: Scarce - may or may not find at larger shows/auctions

R5: Very scarce - only a few offered for sale each year

R6: Extremely scarce - almost never seen, with only one or two offered for sale in a year's time

R7: Rare - only a few exist, a single specimen might, on average, be offered for sale once every few years

This is not an exact science, but merely gives us your perception of a coin's rarity in a specific grade. You may answer based on your experience in looking for these coins, or based on your experiences in seeing these coins being available (or not) at coin shows, shops, auctions, etc.

Most people will not have opinions of every date in every grade. This is normal as we do not all look for the same coins or grades. For example, in past surveys, people would make comments such as “I only look for VF coins, so I am offering opinions on coins in VF grade only.” A number of others stated that they believed the rarity ratings in David Lawrence's Complete Guide books were mostly still accurate, and only offered opinions where they believed something had changed. Both of these are excellent approaches.

If you do not have an opinion or experience with a specific coin in a certain grade, do not feel obligated to answer that item. In other words, it is perfectly rea-

sonable not to provide an opinion for every date in every grade. In fact, offering a completely random answer in that situation will actually skew the results.

By the way, we will not be asking for Rarity Ratings for the 1894-S Dime, as the set of known survivors has been documented already, and there is no need to ask for opinions on rarity. However, the 1894-S is included in the Census, so if any BCCS member is lucky enough to own one of these, your anonymous response will be welcome.

Results will appear in the *Journal* and Web site

Thank you for your participation in this important project. The results will be published in the *Journal* and on the BCCS web site following the completion of the Census and Survey.

We plan to conduct a similar study of Liberty Nickels next year to complete the series. Stay tuned.



Barber Bits

What has struck me, after reading two years of articles, is that the collector base is as much young as it is old. (I am 56 and I consider myself 'old.')

That so many new people, young people, have discovered the joys of the Barber series has made me feel really happy. I had wondered for a long time if the love of Barbers would slowly erode. NOT SO! BCCS plays no small part in this continuing devotion. And I am proud to be a member!

I caught the bug from my dad. I inherited some nice examples from my great aunt. And I am trying to complete a decent set of high grade dimes. Ebay has its place. Just NOT the stuff that I want! At least, offers few and far between catch my interest. I did find a nice 1895-o dime two years ago - PCGS AU58 - I have NEVER regretted buying it. (My bank account has never recovered, but "once in a lifetime" means only one chance - do you know the feeling?)

Matthew Student

BCCS “blind” Email List

At our annual meeting at the ANA Convention in Milwaukee this past summer we approved the creation of a voluntary email list of BCCS members. The advantages to having such a list include the ability to post last-minute BCCS get-togethers at regional shows and other types of Society communications, if needed, without having to wait until the next issue of the *Journal*.

The BCCS web service has the capability to send out messages using a “Blind Carbon Copy” setting, which means everyone on the list would get the email, but nobody’s email address would be displayed. It is, of course, completely voluntary, and is open to members only.

If you wish to be on this list, please send an email to: BCCS@BarberCoins.org and you will be added to the list. Your information will not be disclosed to anyone, and you will only receive email regarding BCCS business from the BCCS email account.



We regret the passing of BCCS member #487, Arthur Williams.



The BCCS meeting at the FUN Show in Orlando is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 11th at 3:00 p.m. in Room 322. Bring something for Show and Tell!



I am a metal detecting hobbyist. This morning I found a 1901-S Barber quarter with a B Die grading probably G-4. It was found at the Saline County Fairgrounds in Harrisburg, Illinois at the site of old horse stables which have been torn down for many years. The dime was on the edge of a small ditch eight inches

down in the blackest dirt I've ever seen. I will be sending it to ANACS to be authenticated and graded. Below are obverse and reverse photos of it.

Dave Hurt



Here are several End-of Year Member Survey responses to the question "What are your three favorite Barbers?"

Dan Hansen:

I am partial to dimes! No offense to my 1892-O micro half, the 1913-S quarter, the VG set of halves or, for that matter, the VF set of halves, etc.

For my birthday, July 17, 1988, my father gave me \$50. I thought, what better way to remember my father than to begin an AU/Choice AU set of Barber dimes. This I did - the 1905-O CH AU dime was the first. It came from Minnetonka (Minnesota) for \$56 on a mail bid.

The 1905-O is favorite #1 - It took six and a half years to complete the collection (less the 94-S of course); the last coin being the 1896-O. I look for errors and in the six and a half years, I located 14 additional coins representing some type of variety.

When Kevin Flynn sought input for his Barber references, I sent him my noticeable varieties. Included was my AU dime collection of 90 coins. His discovery of the first doubled die Barber Dime came from this set - the 1898-O DDR-001/RPD-001.

The 1898-O DDR-001 is favorite #2 - I received Kevin Flynn's *Authoritative Reference on Barber Dimes* and was pleasantly surprised to find 12 references

from my collection. Thanks Kevin.

The 1905-O micro is favorite #3 - A neat variety.

So I give thanks to my father for the birthday gift that started the search for my AU Barber dime collection.

Steven Duckor, M.D.:

1st - Barber Halves

2nd - Barber Dimes

3rd - Barber Quarters

Favorite one - the 1896-O Barber Half in PCGS-66.

Tom Shvachta:

1914 Barber 50c - low mintage but finally going up in value; very undervalued; a super coin for the money.

1895-S Barber 50c - took me two years to find one in uncleaned VF condition (a real sleeper).

1910 Barber 50c - another low mintage, low priced coin that some day will get its due credit.

Randy Jolls:

1. 1896-O Barber Half certified ANACS VF-35

2. 1901-S Barber Half certified NGC VF-30

3. 1914-P Barber Half raw VF-20



FUN Show Talk on Barber 25c Varieties

At the FUN Show, I will be giving a talk titled "Barber Quarters - Surprising Variety!" on Thursday, January 10th at 2 p.m. in Room 220C Hall NB in the Orange County Convention Center. (*Please check the FUN program for any last minute schedule changes.*) My talk will cover the reverse design changes in 1892 and 1900 as well as the mintmark locations from 1892 through 1897 and their relative availability.

I hope to see many Barber quarter enthusiasts and BCCS members there.

Bill Cowburn

1903-S Barber Dime OK with No. 4 Ranking

by **Paul M. Green**

Barber dimes are a sleeping series. It might be a case where there are too many good coins, but with the exceptions of the 1894-S, no great coins. Moreover, the 1894-S, with a mintage of exactly 24, is just not a date you can consider a regular part of a collection.

The rest of the Barber dimes, however, have a lot of interesting dates, but once again, there is a problem in that none have a mintage of less than the 264,000 pieces produced in 1916 at Denver. Consequently, to some it looks like Mercury dimes might be better or tougher, as no Barber dime really stands up to the 1916-D. The 1916-D, however, is the exception, as there are many Barber dime dates that are not as good as the 1916-D, but are better than any other 20th century dime. On that list of dimes would have to be the 1903-S - one of a number of underrated Barber dimes.

The 1903-S Barber dime had a mintage of 613,300. That was not so low, as there were a total of four Barber dimes, not counting the 1894-S, with lower mintages. There was also the 1916-D Mercury dime. In the 20th century, however, the 1903-S is the fourth lowest mintage dime of any type.

To be the fourth best of anything over the course of a century is impressive. The fourth best baseball player of the 20th century might have been Willie Mays or Ted Williams. The fourth best President of the United States in the 20th century might have been Teddy Roosevelt or Harry Truman. Being the fourth best over the course of a century is pretty select company.

Looking at the 1903-S Barber dime, you would not get that impression. Unless you are a Barber dime specialist, most do not even know about the 1903-S. That low mintage and lofty position translate into a price today of just \$66 in G-4 and a price tag of \$1,100 in MS-60, with an MS-65 commanding \$3,200.

If you look seriously at Barber dimes, you will see that despite seemingly modest prices, the 1903-S is a very solid date in what is a very overlooked set. At \$66 in G-4, the 1903-S is in a group of the better Barber dimes. The 1895-O is the

key other than the 1894-S, but in a price range from \$50-\$75 in G-4 can be found not just the 1903-S, but also the 1892-S, 1894-O, 1895, 1896-O, 1896-S, 1897-O and 1901-S. They are the core of a Barber dime collection, at least in lower circulated grades.

If you move up in grade to MS-60, you find that at \$1,100, the 1903-S is even better. It is behind only the \$1,200 1894-O and the \$4,000 1895-O in price. In MS-65, however, it's in the middle of the pack of better Barber dimes.

Most of the better dates in the Barber set are from the period before 1900. In G-4, only the 1901-S is more expensive and the 1901-S had a lower mintage. The other lower mintage Barber dime is the 1913-S, but its G-4 price is only \$12.50.

The mysterious earthquake factor may play a role as the dates prior to 1907 - the year after San Francisco was destroyed - seem to be far better in most cases than 1907 or later.

It may be a combination of more collectors in the 1907-16 period and numbers lost in the earthquake and fire, but the G-4 gap between the 1903-S and the 1913-S seems unusually large when you realize the 1913-S had the lower mintage. The MS-60 gap is also large, with the 1903-S at \$1,100, but the 1913-S at \$480.

The clear message is that while the 1903-S may only be the fourth lowest mintage dime of the century, it is still a very good date and one worth acquiring.

Editor's note: The following chart gives a comparison of the prices quoted for the dates, mintmarks, and grades mentioned in Paul Green's May 4, 2004 article and those given in the November 2007 Numismatic News "Coin Market."

May 2004 article	Nov. 2007 "Coin Market"
1894-O in MS-60 - \$1200.00	\$1550.00
1895-O in MS-60 - \$4000.00	\$6000.00
1903-S in G-4 - \$66.00	\$84.00
in MS-60 - \$1100.00	\$1150.00
in MS-65 - \$3200.00	\$3750.00
1913-S in G-4 - \$12.50	\$22.00
in MS-60 - \$480.00	\$480.00

Barber Coin Collectors' Society Bylaws

1. Promotes the writing and sharing of information on Barber coins to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series; for Society purposes, Barber coins are defined as primarily U.S. dimes, quarters and half dollars designed by Charles E. Barber and minted from 1892 to 1916.
2. Gives Barber hobbyists an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interests.
3. Can promote consistent grading standards among collectors, dealers, society members and non-members alike.
4. Through group purchasing power, can offer its members discounts on numismatic materials relating especially to the collecting of Barber coins.
5. Provides members a means to trade their Barbers with other members, in an effort to upgrade or complete their collection.
6. Effectively lobbies numismatic shows and events to provide Barber exhibits and space for all Barber dealers to sell their merchandise.
7. Promotes the collecting of Barbers and the hobby in general to today's youngsters.
8. Offers benefit to all Barber collectors, whether they collect Barber dimes, quarters or halves, graded AG or MS65+.
9. Makes sure its members have a say in the organization.
10. Is a not-for-profit organization dedicated solely to the benefit of its members and those who assist the Society in advancing its purpose.



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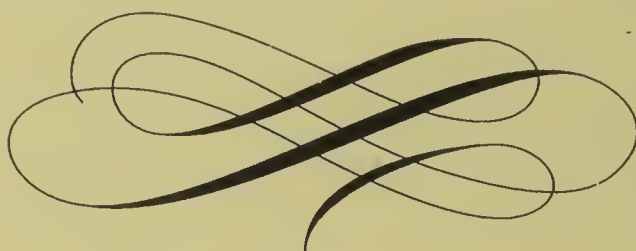
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